(b) if so, on what basis the villages without drinking water were identified earlier and by what percentage the claim, of having covered the villages under the drinking water scheme by the end of the Sixth Plan period had been reduced con sequent to the re-assessment of the achie vements;

(c) the percentage of the problem villages where * source for water had been identified in the last three years stating the reasons for unsatisfactory progress, if any, in this regard; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose, to cover the. maximum number of problem villages under the'drinking water scheme during the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE *(SUfil* RAMANAND YADAV); (a) and (b) At the beginning of the Sixth *V10* (1-4-80) about 2. 30 lakh problem villages remained to be provided with safe drinking water facilities. Out of these, *1. 92* lakh problem villages were provided with at least one source of safe drinking water during the Sixth Plan. Thus about 38, 000 spill over problem villages were left uncovered at the beginning of the Seventh Plan. Further, surveys conducted by States by 1-4-85, identified an ad-litional 1. 89 lakh villages as freshly iden-ified problem villages, making a total of ibom 2. 27 lakh problem villages remaining to be covered. The increase in the lumber of problem villages was due to drought resulting in failure of sources md contamination of existing sources, he foi/owing criteria have been adopted 3r identification of problem villages:

0) Those which do not have an assured source of water within a distance of 1. 6 Kms. or within a depth of 15 metres or at an elevation difference of more than 100 metres.

(ii) Those where th_e available water has salinity, iron flouride and other to-rie elements.

(iii) Those where diseases like cholera, guinea-worm etc. are endemic.

(c) Out of 2. 27 lakh problem villages which remained to be covered as on 1-4-85, the problem of source finding was for 68 per cent i. e., 1, 54, 300 problem villages. During 1985-86 and 1986-87 (upto Feb. 1987) source finding by providing safe drinking water facilities had been identified for about 58000 problem villages. It is expected to complete the source finding surveys in all the remaining villages by the end. of September, 1989.

(d) It is proposed to cover the entire residual problem villages in the Seventh) Plan, within the constraints of Plan outlay ' by using cost effective methods through application of relevant science, and technology inputs in an integrated approach. The Technology Mission on Drinking Water in villages and Related Water Management had been launched to achieve tl objectives.

Agitation by Fanners in Ahmedabad

2162. SHRl KALPNATH RAI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plea sed to state; '

(a) whether Government are aware that some farmers had recently launched agitations in Ahmedabad demanding for more remunerative- prices for their farm products and for reduction in electricity rates; and

(b) if so, whether the matter has been gone into and what steps bjve been taken to mitigate 'their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl YOG-ENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Ye% Sir,

(b) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Government of Gujarat are already seized of the matter amd have taken a number of steps to redress some of the grievances. of the farmers. The Govern-ment of Gujarat have also appointed a five-member Committee headed by the State Agriculture Minister for recommending further measures in the matter.